

Atty Docket No.: JCLA5249

Serial No.: 09/621,750

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

Applicants appreciate that the Office Action allows claims 1-6 and 15-20. The Office Action also considers that claim 12 is allowable.

The Office Action rejected claims 7-11, 13 and 14 under 35 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (U. S. Patent 6,484,281). Claims remain 1-20 pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 7-11, 13 and 14 under 35 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al.. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reason set forth below.

First, the Wang et al. is a prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) with respect to the present invention. In addition, Wang et al. and the present invention have the same assignee of "Via Technologies, Inc." It is believed that Wang et al. does not fully anticipate the claimed invention as recited in independent claim 7 with the reasons to be discussed later. Wang et al. should also be not the prior art reference when rejection is made under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and 103(c).

Second, in comparing the present invention with Wang et al., the present invention as recited in claim 7 is directed to **concurrently test multiple components**. Since the various components are tested at the same time, a situation about accessing the same resource for different components would very possibly occur. In this situation, the arbiter is used to handle

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the accessing sequence, so as to at least achieve the function for *concurrently testing multiple components*.

However, in re Wang et al. (Abstract; col. 5, lines 54-57; col. 6, lines 1-3), Wang et al. disclose that the software-based simulation system is provided, which can provide *the combined functionality of a South Bridge test module and a North Bridge test module based solely on either one of the two modules, i.e., either the South Bridge test module or the North Bridge test module without having to use both*.

Wang et al. failed to specifically disclose the claimed features about *concurrently testing multiple components* as recited in claim 7 as follows:

7. *A testing method in a multitasking manner for testing a number of components through software simulation, the testing method comprises:*

concurrently activating said components by at least one command to simulate a certain task, when two or more components are competing for access to a resource, activating an arbiter to perform arbitration for these competing components.

Furthermore, claims 13 and 14 recite that the arbiter of the present invention can be, for example, South Bridge chipset or North Bridge chipset.

Alternatively, Wang et al. does not completely anticipate the present invention about concurrently testing multiple components. Then, Wang et al. is either not a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(c).

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For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 patently defines over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 8-14 patently define over the prior art references as well, wherein claim 12 has been considered to be allowable.

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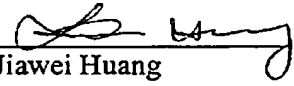
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-20 of the invention patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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